

## RET

A combination of honest men would endeavour to extirpate all the profligate immoral retainers to each side, that have nothing to recommend them but an implicit submission to their leaders. *Addison's Spectator.*

To RETAKE. *v. a.* [re and take.] To take again. A day should be appointed, when the remembrance should be taken into consideration. *Clarendon.*

To RETALIATE. *v. a.* [re and talio, Lat.] To return by giving like for like; to repay; to requite.

It is very unlucky, to be obliged to retaliate the injuries of authors, whose works are so soon forgotten, that we are in danger of appearing the first aggressors. *Swift.*

If a first minister of state had used me as you have done, retaliating would be thought a mark of courage. *Swift.*

RETALIATION. *n. f.* [from retaliate.] Requit; return of like for like.

They thought it no irreligion to prosecute the severest retaliation or revenge; so that at the same time their outward man might be a saint, and their inward man a devil. *South.*

God, graciously becoming our debtor, takes what is done to others as done to himself, and by promise obliges himself to full retaliation. *Calamy's Sermons.*

To RETARD. *v. a.* [retardo, Lat. retarder, Fr.] 1. To hinder; to obstruct in swiftness of course.

How Iphitus with me, and Pelias Slowly retire; the one retarded was By feeble age, the other by a wound. *Denham.*

2. To delay; to put off.

Nor kings nor nations One moment can retard th' appointed hour. *Dryden.*

It is as natural to delay a letter at such a season, as to retard a melancholy visit to a person one cannot relieve. *Pope.*

To RETARD. *v. n.* To stay back.

Some years it hath also retarded, and come far later, than usually it was expected. *Brown's Vulgar Errors.*

RETARDATION. *n. f.* [retardation, Fr. from retard.] Hindrance; the act of delaying.

Out of this man may devise the means of altering the colour of birds, and the retardation of hoary hairs. *Bacon.*

RETARDER. *n. f.* [from retard.] Hinderer; obstructor.

This disputing way of enquiry, is so far from advancing science, that it is no inconsiderable retarder. *Glanville.*

To RETCH. *v. n.* [hyrcan, Saxon.] To force up something from the stomach.

RETCHLESS. *adj.* [sometimes written wretchless, properly wretchless. See RECKLESS.] Careless.

He struggles into breath, and cries for aid; Then helpless in his mother's lap is laid: He creeps, he walks, and issuing into man, Grudges their life, from whence his own began; Retchless of laws, affects to rule alone. *Dryden.*

RETENTION. *n. f.* [retentus, Lat.] The act of discovering to the view.

This is rather a restoration of a body to its own colour, or a retention of its native colour, than a change. *Boyle.*

RETENTION. *n. f.* [retention, Fr. retentio, from retentus, Lat.] 1. The act of retaining.

No woman's heart So big to hold so much; they lack retention. *Shakespeare.*

A forward retention of custom is as turbulent a thing, as an innovation; and they, that reverence too much old things, are but a scorn to the new. *Bacon's Natural History.*

2. Retention and retentive faculty is that state of contraction in the solid parts, which makes them hold fast their proper contents. *Quincy.*

3. Memory.

The backward learner makes amends another way, expiating his want of docility with a deeper and a more rooted retention. *South's Sermons.*

Retention is the keeping of those simple ideas, which from sensation or reflection the mind hath received. *Locke.*

4. Limitation.

His life I gave him, and did thereto add My love without retention or restraint; All his. *Shakespeare. Twelfth Night.*

5. Custody; confinement; restraint.

I sent the old and miserable king To some retention and appointed guard. *Shakespeare. K. Lear.*

RETENTIVE. *adj.* [retentus, Lat. retentivus, Fr.] 1. Having the power of retention.

It keepeth sermons in memory, and doth in that respect, although not feed the soul of man, yet help the retentive force of that stomach of the mind. *Hooker.*

Have I been ever free, and must my house Be my retentive enemy, my goal? *Shakespeare.*

From retentive cage When fullen Philomel escapes, her notes She varies, and of past imprisonment Sweetly complains. *Philips.*

In Totnam fields the brethren with amaze Prick all their ears up, and forget to gaze; Long Chancery-lane retentive rolls the found, And courts to courts return it round and round. *Pope.*

## RET

2. Having memory.

To remember a song or tune, our souls must be an harmony continually running over in a silent whisper those musical accents, which our retentive faculty is preserver of. *Glan.*

RETENTIVENESS. *n. f.* [from retentive.] Having the quality of retention.

RETICENCE. *n. f.* [reticence, Fr. reticentia, from retices, Lat.] Concealment by silence. *Di.*

RETICLE. *n. f.* [reticulum, Lat.] A small net. *Di.*

RETICULAR. *adj.* [from reticulum, Lat.] Having the form of a small net.

RETICULATED. *adj.* [reticulatus, Lat.] Made of network; formed with interstitial vacuities.

The intervals of the cavities, rising a little, make a pretty kind of reticulated work. *Woodward on Efflu.*

RETIFORM. *adj.* [retiformis, Lat.] Having the form of a net.

The uvicous coat and inside of the choroides are blackened, that the rays may not be reflected backwards to confound the sight; and if any be by the retiform coat reflected, they are soon choaked in the black inside of the uvea. *Rey.*

RETINUE. *n. f.* [retinue, Fr.] A number attending upon a principal person; a train; a meiny.

Not only this your all licens'd fool, But other of your insolent retinues, Do hourly carp and quarrel. *Shakespeare. King Lear.*

What followers, what retinue can't thou gain, Or at thy heels the dizzy multitude, Longer than thou can't feed them on thy cost? *Milton.*

There appears The long retinue of a prosperous reign, A series of successful years. *Dryden.*

Neither pomp nor retinue shall be able to divert the great, nor shall the rich be relieved by the multitude of his treasures. *Rogers's Sermons.*

To RETIRE. *v. n.* [retire, Fr.] 1. To retreat; to withdraw; to go to a place of privacy.

The mind contracts herself, and shrinketh in, And to herself the gladly doth retire. *Davies.*

The less I may be blest with her company, the more I will retire to God and my own heart. *King Charles.*

Thou open'st widom's way, And giv'st access, though secret she retire. *Milton.*

The parliament dissolved, and gentlemen charged to retire to their country habitations. *Hayward.*

2. To retreat from danger.

Set up the standard towards Zion, retire, stay not. *Jr.*

Set Uriah in the fore front of the hottest battle, and retire ye from him, that he may die. *2 Sam. xi. 15.*

From each hand with speed retir'd, Where erst was thickest th' angelic throng. *Milton.*

3. To go from a public station.

He, that had driven many out of their country, perished in a strange land, retiring to the Lacedemonians. *2 Mac. v.*

4. To go off from company.

The old fellow skulked out of the room, and retired. *Arch.*

To RETIRE. *v. a.* To withdraw; to take away.

He brake up his court, and retired himself, his wife, and children into a forest thereby.

They, full of rage, retired themselves into this castle. *Sid.*

He, our hope, might have retir'd his power, And driven into despair an enemy's hate. *Shakespeare.*

Thence retire me to my Milan. *Shakespeare. Temp.*

There may be as great a variety in retiring and withdrawing men's conceits in the world, as in obtruding them. *Bacon.*

As when the sun is present all the year, And never doth retire his golden rays, Needs must the spring be everlasting there, And every season like the month of May. *Davies.*

These actions in her closet, all alone, Retir'd within herself, she doth fulfill. *Davies.*

After some slight skirmishes, he retired himself into the castle of Farnham. *Clarendon.*

Hydra-like, the fire Lifts up his hundred heads to aim his way; And scarce the wealthy can one half retire, Before he rushes in to share the prey. *Dryden.*

RETIRE. *n. f.* [from the verb.] 1. Retreat; recession.

I heard his praises in pursuit, But ne'er, till now, his scandal of retire. *Shakespeare.*

Thou hast talk'd Of fallies and retires, of trenches, tents. *Shakespeare.*

The battle and the retire of the English succours were the causes of the loss of that dutchy. *Bacon's Henry VII.*

2. Retirement; place of privacy. Not in use.

Eye, who unseen Yet all had heard, with audible lament Discover'd from the place of her retire. *Milton.*

RETIRE. *part. adj.* [from retire.] Secret; private.

Language most shews a man; speak that I may see thee: it springs out of the most retired and inmost parts of us. *B. Job.*

You find the mind in sleep retired from the senses, and out of these motions made on the organs of sense. *Locke.*

## RET

Some, accustomed to retired speculations, ruin natural philosophy into metaphysical notions and the abstract generalities of logic. *Locke.*

He was admitted into the most secret and retired thoughts and counsels of his royal master king William. *Addison.*

RETIREMENT. *n. f.* [from retired.] Solitude; privacy; secrecy.

Like one, who in her third widowhood doth profess Herself a nun, ty'd to retiredness. *Donne.*

So affects my muse now a chaste fallowness. *Donne.*

How could he have the leisure and retiredness of the cloister, to perform all those acts of devotion in, when the burthen of the reformation lay upon his shoulders? *Aterbury.*

RETIREMENT. *n. f.* [from retire.] 1. Private abode; secret habitation.

My retirement there tempted me to divert those melancholy thoughts. *Denham's Dedication.*

Caprea had been the retirement of Augustus for some time, and the residence of Tiberius for many years. *Addison.*

2. Private way of life.

An elegant sufficiency, content, Retirement, rural quiet, friendship, books, Progressive virtue, and approving heaven. *Thompson.*

3. Act of withdrawing.

Short retirement urges sweet return. *Milton.*

In this retirement of the mind from the senses, it retains a yet more incoherent manner of thinking, which we call dreaming. *Locke.*

RETO'LD. *part. pass.* of retell. Related or told again.

Whatever Harry Percy then had said At such a time, with all the rest retold, May reasonably die. *Shakespeare.*

Upon his dead corpse there was such misuse By those Welchwomen done, as may not be Without much flame retold or spoken of. *Shakespeare.*

To RETORT. *v. a.* [retortus, Lat.] 1. To throw back.

His virtues, shining upon others, Heat them, and they retort that heat again To the first giver. *Shakespeare. Troilus and Cressida.*

He paid through hostile scorn; And with retorted scorn his back he turn'd. *Milton.*

2. To return any argument, censure, or incivility.

His proof will easily be retorted, and the contrary proved, by interrogating; shall the adulterer inherit the kingdom of God? if he shall, what need I, that am now exhorted to reform my life, reform it? if he shall not, then certainly I, that am such, am none of the elect; for all, that are elect, shall finally inherit the kingdom of God. *Hammond.*

What if toy son Prove disobedient, and reprov'd, retort, Wherefore dost thou beget me? *Milton.*

The respondent may shew, how the opponent's argument may be retorted against himself. *Watts.*

3. To curve back.

It would be tried how the voice will be carried in an horn, which is a line arched; or in a trumpet, which is a line retorted; or in some pipe that were sinuous. *Bacon.*

RETORT. *n. f.* [retorte, Fr. retortum, Lat.] 1. A censure or incivility returned.

I laid his beard was not cut well, he was in the mind it was: this is called the retort courteous. *Shakespeare.*

2. A chemical glass vessel with a bent neck to which the receiver is fitted.

Recent urine distilled yields a limpid water; and what remains at the bottom of the retort, is not acid nor alkaline. *Arb.*

RETORTER. *n. f.* [from retort.] One that retorts.

RETORTION. *n. f.* [from retort.] The act of retorting.

To RETO'SS. *v. a.* [re and toss.] To toss back.

Toss and retoss the ball incessant flies. *Pope's Odyssey.*

To RETOUCH. *v. a.* [retoucher, Fr.] To improve by new touches.

He furnished me with all the passages in Aristotle and Horace, used to explain the art of poetry by painting; which, if ever I touch this essay, shall be inserted. *Dryden.*

Lintot, dull rogue! will think your price too much: "Not, Sir, if you revise it and retouch." *Pope.*

To RETRACE. *v. a.* [retracere, Fr.] To trace back.

Then if the line of Turnus you retrace, He springs from Inachus of Argive race. *Dryden.*

To RETRACT. *v. a.* [retractus, Lat. retractus, Fr.] 1. To recall; to recant.

Were I alone to pass the difficulties, Paris should ne'er retract what he hath done, Nor faint in the pursuit. *Shakespeare. Troilus and Cressida.*

Although they retain the word mandrake in the text, they in effect retract it in the margin. *Brown's Vulg. Errors.*

If his subtilties could have satisfied me, I would as freely have retracted this charge of idolatry, as I ever made it. *Still.*

She will, and she will not, the grants, denies, Consents, retract, advances, and then flies. *Granville.*

2. To take back; to resume.

A great part of that time, which the inhabitants of the former earth had to spare, and whereof they made so ill use, was employed in making provisions for bread; and the excess

## RET

of fertility, which contributed so much to their miscarriages, was retracted and cut off. *Woodward's Natural History.*

RETRACTATION. *n. f.* [retraction, Fr. retractatio, Lat.] Recantation; change of opinion.

These words are David's retraction, or laying down of a bloody and revengeful resolution. *South's Sermons.*

RETRACTION. *n. f.* [from retract.] 1. Act of withdrawing something advanced.

They make bold with the deity, when they make him do and undo, go forward and backwards by such countermarches and retractions, as we do not repute to the Almighty. *Woodw.*

2. Recantation; declaration of change of opinion.

There came into her head certain verses, which if she had had present commodity, she would have adjoined as a retraction to the other. *Sidney, b. ii.*

3. Act of withdrawing a claim.

Other men's insatiable desire of revenge hath wholly beguiled both church and state, of the benefit of all my either retractions or concessions. *King Charles.*

RETRACT. *n. f.* *Spenfer.* [retraite Fr.] 1. Retreat. Obsolete.

The earl of Lincoln, deceived of the country's concurrence unto him, and seeing the business past retrait, resolved to make on where the king was, and give him battle. *Bacon.*

2. [Retrait, Fr. retratto, Italian.] A cast of the countenance. Obsolete.

Upon her eyelids many graces sat, Under the shadow of her even brows, Working bellgards and amorous retraite, And every one her with a grace endows. *Fairy Queen.*

RETREAT. *n. f.* [retraite, Fr.] 1. Place of privacy; retirement.

He built his son a house of pleasure, and spared no cost to make a delicious retreat. *L'Estrange.*

2. Place of security.

This place our dungeon, not our safe retreat, Beyond his potent arm. *Milton.*

That pleasing shade they sought, a soft retreat From sudden April showers, a shelter from the heat. *Dry.*

There is no such way to give defence to absurd doctrines, as to guard them round with legions of obscure and undefined words; which yet make these retreats more like the dens of robbers, than the fortresses of fair warriors. *Locke.*

3. Act of retiring before a superior force.

Honourable retreats are no ways inferior to brave charges; as having less of fortune, more of discipline, and as much of valour. *Bacon.*

To RETREAT. *v. n.* [from the noun.] 1. To go to a private abode.

Others more mild Retreated in a silent valley, sing Their own heroic deeds. *Milton.*

2. To take shelter; to go to a place of security.

3. To retire from a superior enemy.

4. To go out of the former place.

The rapid currents drive Towards the retreating sea their furious tide. *Milton.*

My subject does not oblige me to look after the water, or point forth the place whereunto it is now retreated. *Woodw.*

Having taken her by the hand, he retreated with his eye fixed upon her. *Arbutnot and Pope.*

RETREATED. *part. adj.* [from retreat.] Retired; gone to privacy.

To RETRENCH. *v. a.* [retrancher, Fr.] 1. To cut off; to pare away.

The pruner's hand must quench Thy heat, and thy exuberant parts retrench. *Denham.*

Nothing can be added to the wit of Ovid's Metamorphoses; but many things ought to have been retrenched. *Dryden.*

We ought to retrench those superfluous expenses to qualify ourselves for the exercise of charity. *Aterbury.*

2. To confine. Improper.

In some reigns, they are for a power and obedience that is unlimited; and in others, are for retrenching within the narrowest bounds, the authority of the princes, and the allegiance of the subject. *Addison's Freeholder, N° 6.*

To RETRENCH. *v. n.* To live with less magnificence or expense.

Can I retrench? yes mighty well Shrink back to my paternal cell, A little house, with trees a-row, And like its master, very low. *Pope's Epist. of Horace.*

RETRENCHMENT. *n. f.* [retranchement, Fr. from retrench.] The act of lopping away.

I had studied Virgil's design, his judicious management of the figures, the fober retrenchments of his sense, which always leaves somewhat to gratify our imagination, on which it may enlarge at pleasure. *Dryden's Dedication to Virgil.*

The want of vowels in our language has been the general complaint of our politest authors, who nevertheless have made these retrenchments, and consequently encreased our former scarcity. *Addison.*

I would rather be an advocate for the retrenchment, than the encrease of this charity. *Aterbury.*

To RETRIBUTE.